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NEWS AND COMMENT

The first attempt of the French to establish a trading post and mission station on Minnesota soil was in 1727, when René Boucher, Sieur de la Perrière, constructed Fort Beauharnois on the west shore of Lake Pepin, near the site of Frontenac. In the following summer La Perrière returned to Montreal, leaving the establishment, apparently, in the charge of Pierre Boucher, Sieur de Boucherville. Because of the hostility of the Foxes and the doubtful attitude of the Sioux, De Boucherville decided, in September, 1728, to abandon the post. His relation of his experiences on the return journey, including a captivity among the Kickapoo, together with observations on the manners and customs of the Sioux, was published by Michel Bibaud in volume 3 of *La Bibliothèque Canadienne* (Montreal, 1826), apparently from the original manuscript. A translation of this printed transcript was included by Thwaites in volume 17 of the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, and this translation is now reprinted in the January number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* under the title "Captivity of a Party of Frenchmen among Indians in the Iowa Country, 1728-1729." The reprint is edited by Jacob Van der Zee, who has supplied some new notes. Part of Thwaites's notes are quoted, part are paraphrased, but others are omitted entirely. The last two pages of the document, as printed in the *Wisconsin Historical Collections*, containing the "Observations on the Scioux," are omitted also. Nowhere in the reprint is there a reference to the original publication in French.

Some years ago a manuscript map entitled "A Topographic View of the Site of Fort St Anthony at the Confluence of the Mississippi and St Peters Rivers" was found among the papers of General Sibley. This was reproduced by Edward A. Bromley in 1904, and Mr. Upham called attention to it in his paper on "The Women and Children of Fort St. Anthony" in the *Magazine of History* for July (see *ante* p. 243). Recently another manuscript map of the same region entitled "Part of the Michigan & Missouri Territories at the Confluence of Mississippi & St

Peters Rivers, 1821," which was "Presented to Tho. Forsyth by his friend Major Marston 5th Infantry," has been located in the Forsyth Papers in the possession of the Wisconsin Historical Society. The two maps are so much alike in general features that it would appear that one was copied from the other, and they are probably the work of the same draughtsman, but each contains some features not to be found on the other. The Sibley map has no date, but has been assigned by Mr. Bromley to 1823. A photographic reproduction of the Forsyth map has been secured for the Minnesota Historical Society.

The *Third Census of the State of South Dakota Taken in the Year 1915* (1168 p.) was compiled under the direction of the state department of history of which Doane Robinson is secretary and superintendent, the actual work of enumeration being performed by the local assessors. Every inhabitant was entered in a population register and also on a card containing blanks for much useful information. As a result of this system "the state possesses a complete card index of all of her people." An unusual feature of this census was the attempt to secure data as to "ancestry," which would appear to have been fairly successful. There has been a tendency of late toward the abandoning of state censuses, due doubtless to the fact that their value has seemed disproportionate to the cost. South Dakota, however, by the application of methods of "economy and efficiency" has secured, for an expenditure of a little over five thousand dollars, a body of valuable population and agricultural statistics. To future students of history, sociology, genealogy, and agricultural economics, the data thus collected will be a veritable mine. The department of history has also issued a *Fifteenth Annual Review of the Progress of South Dakota, 1915* (11 p.).

The *Twenty-eighth Report* of the commissioner of public records of Massachusetts (8 p.) states that during 1915 the officer made "inspection of the care, custody, and protection against fire of public records of departments and offices of the Commonwealth, counties, cities, and towns" in 163 places. One town was forced by court proceedings to procure a safe for its records, and four counties and fourteen towns had part of their records "repaired, renovated or bound during the year . . . in most

instances by order of the commissioner." The use of typewriter ribbons or stamping pads other than those approved by the commissioner, of which a list is given in the *Report*, is a violation of law. The time may come when the western states will be awakened to the importance of looking after the preservation of their records.

The *Indiana Magazine of History* for December contains an account of "The Indiana Historical Commission and Plans for the Centennial" by Professor James A. Woodburn. In addition to fostering the various centennial celebrations, the commission expects to publish four volumes of historical material: two containing messages of the governors to 1851, prepared by the Indiana historical survey of Indiana University under the editorial direction of Professor Samuel B. Harding; one on early travel in Indiana, edited by Professor Harlow Lindley of the archives department of the state library; and one on the history of constitution-making in Indiana by Charles B. Kettleborough of the state legislative reference bureau.

A valuable study of "The Indian Agent in the United States before 1850" by Ruth A. Gallaher is published in the January issue of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*. This is announced as "the first of a series of four articles dealing with one phase of the history of Indian affairs in the United States with special reference to Iowa."

The December issue of the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* contains the annual summary of "Historical Activities in the Trans-Mississippi Northwest" by Dan E. Clark of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company has issued a five-volume work (Chicago, 1915) consisting of a *History of Dakota Territory* by George W. Kingsbury, in two volumes, *South Dakota, Its History and Its People*, edited by George Martin Smith, one volume, and two volumes devoted to biographical sketches of South Dakota people. The volumes on the territory contain a considerable amount of documentary material of value, much of which is pertinent to the history of Minnesota as well as of Dakota.

A "Report on the preparation of teachers for teaching local and Nebraska history as presented at the State Normal at Kearney" was read by Professor C. N. Anderson of that institution before the Nebraska History Teachers' Association last May, and has been published by the Nebraska Legislative Reference Bureau in its *Nebraska History and Political Science Series* (1915. 15 p.). The report deals first with the reasons for teaching state and local history and then discusses materials and methods with many practical suggestions.

A useful series of bibliographies of foreign elements in the United States, compiled by Ina Ten Eyck Firkins of the University of Minnesota library, is appearing in the *Bulletin of Bibliography*. Italians, Scandinavians, Slavs, and Irish have been dealt with in the January, April, October, 1915, and January, 1916 issues, respectively.

The Indiana State Library has issued as number 4 of its *Reference Circulars a List of Books on Pageants* (8 p.). While confined to material in the library, including books, pamphlets, and periodical articles, it would be a useful bibliography for any one interested in the subject.

A pamphlet entitled *The New Library Building* (29 p.) contains descriptions and illustrations of the building erected at Columbia for the libraries of the University of Missouri and the State Historical Society of Missouri. The central portion of the building was recently completed at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars and was formally opened on January 6.

The January number of the *Wisconsin Alumni Magazine* contains a popular description of "The State Historical Museum" maintained by the Wisconsin Historical Society in its building at Madison. The article is by Charles E. Brown, curator of the museum.

Under the title "Indian Eloquence in a Judicial Forum" in the *Central Law Journal* for January (St. Louis), Judge John W. Willis of St. Paul presents a dramatic speech delivered by an Ojibway chief at the conclusion of a trial in which white men were convicted of murdering Indians. The trial took place in Brainerd in 1881.

Five graduate students in the University of Minnesota are engaged in research work in Minnesota history: Franklin H. Holbrook is working on the political career of Ignatius Donnelly; Charles B. Kuhlmann, on the settlement of Morrison County; Jeannette Rutledge, on the history of the liquor question in Minnesota; William R. Fieldhouse, on the history of the flour-milling industry in Minneapolis; and Wilson P. Shortridge, on the organization and the changes in boundaries of Minnesota's counties. It is expected that the results of the work of the first four will be presented as theses for the master's degree in the department of history.

The Hennepin County Territorial Pioneers' Association held its semi-annual meeting at the old Godfrey house, Richard Chute Square, Minneapolis, January 8, 1916. The presentation to the association of a pair of snowshoes which formerly were the property of Pierre Bottineau led to the relation by those present of many interesting incidents in the life of this once famous guide.

On the invitation of Captain Fred A. Bill and ex-Governor S. R. Van Sant a number of old-time rivermen gathered at the Hotel Leamington in Minneapolis on the evening of November 11, 1915, and organized the Pioneer Rivermen's Association. The object of the association is to keep alive memories of steamboat days on the Mississippi River; to this end it will collect and preserve historical data about its members.

The Old Settlers' Association of the Head of the Lakes and the Old Settlers' Benefit Association held their annual banquet at Hotel Euclid, Superior, December 8, 1915. About two hundred persons were present. The principal address of the afternoon was given by Colonel Hiram Hayes, for sixty-one years a resident of Superior, who spoke on the settlement of the head of the lakes by white men. A. R. Merritt paid tribute to "The Fathers and Mothers of the Old Settlers" for the courage with which they endured the hardships of pioneer days. In an address "In Memoriam" J. P. Johnson gave some account of the deeds of the pioneers.

MINNESOTA PUBLICATIONS

As number 151 of its series of *Bulletins* the Agricultural Experiment Station of the University of Minnesota has issued *Quack Grass Eradication*, by A. C. Arny of the division of agronomy and farm management (University Farm, St. Paul, 1915. 82 p.). *Bulletin* 152, entitled *Farmers' Elevators in Minnesota*, by L. D. H. Weld of the division of research in agricultural economics, is a valuable contribution to the economic history of the state (24 p.). A brief historical sketch of the farmers' elevator movement is followed by a description of its present status and of methods of organization and management.

"Swamp Land Drainage with Special Reference to Minnesota" by Ben Palmer (1915. 138 p.) is number 5 of the University of Minnesota *Studies in the Social Sciences*. Special attention has been given to the legal aspects of the subject, and two chapters are devoted to the history of drainage legislation and swamp land reclamation in Minnesota.

Further Observations on Minnesota Birds; Their Economic Relations to the Agriculturist (24 p.) has recently been issued as number 35 of the *Circulars* of the state entomologist, F. L. Washburn.

The Farmer, a journal of agriculture published weekly by the Webb Publishing Company of St. Paul, issued on January 1, 1916, an *Automobile Census of Minnesota* (40 p.), based on the registration of automobiles in the office of the secretary of state up to November 1, 1915.

Laws of Minnesota Relating to the Public School System, Including the State Normal Schools and the University of Minnesota is the title of a pamphlet prepared under the direction of C. G. Schulz, superintendent of education, by W. H. Williams of the St. Paul bar (1915. 135 p.). The compilation is based on the *General Statutes*, 1913, and the later laws and amendments, and contains all the general laws relating to the public schools which are of practical use and application, arranged by subjects.

Summary of Conditions in the Minnesota Institutions under the Direction of the State Board of Control is the title of a pamphlet recently issued by the board for the fiscal year ending July 31, 1915, which should prove of interest to students of sociology (18 p.).

Volume 130 of *Minnesota Reports*, covering all cases argued and determined in the supreme court of the state from June 11 to September 10, 1915, has been issued under the direction of Henry Burleigh Wenzell, reporter (xx, 652 p.).

The state high school board has issued the *Twenty-second Annual Report* of the inspector of state high schools (80 p.), and the *Twentieth Annual Report* of the inspector of state graded schools (45 p.), each for the school year ending July 31, 1915.

The Synod of Minnesota of the Presbyterian Church has published the *Minutes* of its fifty-seventh annual meeting, which was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, October 12-15, 1915 (119 p.). The volume contains as an appendix an interesting account of the exercises conducted on the evening of October 13 by the First Presbyterian Church in commemoration of the eightieth anniversary of its organization. This church through many changes in name and location traces its development back to the First Presbyterian Church at St. Peters, Upper Mississippi, organized at Fort Snelling on June 11, 1835, by Rev. Thomas S. Williamson—the first Protestant church in Minnesota.

The Minneapolis branch of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church has published its *Thirty-second Annual Report* for the year ending October 1, 1915 (113 p.).

The General Congregational Conference of Minnesota has issued the *Minutes* of its sixtieth annual meeting, held at Waseca, October 5-7, 1915 (104 p.).

The board of directors of the Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis has issued its *Thirty-third Annual Report* covering the year ending November 1, 1915 (72 p.).

The *Proceedings* of the forty-sixth annual assembly of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Minnesota, held at St. Paul, October 11, 1915, has appeared (64 p.).

The Minnesota Legislature of 1915 by C. J. Buell (112 p.) is a detailed examination of the work of the last general assembly, similar in character to his book on the legislature of 1913 and to the books by Lynn Haines on the legislatures of 1909 and 1911.

Axel Hayford Reed of Glencoe, Minnesota, is the compiler of a *Genealogical Record of the Reads, Reeds, the Bisbees, the Bradfords of the United States*, recently published (164 p.). About sixty pages are devoted to extracts from a diary kept by the author while serving in Company K of the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil War.

A Minnesota Christmas and Other Verses is the title of a small book of poems by May Stanley (Duluth, c. 1914. 59 p.). The volume is dedicated to the pioneers of northern Minnesota, for whom the author has embodied in verse possessing some charm the beauties of the woods and waters of the north land.

The *Irving Sketch Book* (December, 1915. 60 p.) is an attractive booklet containing stories, poems, descriptions, and compositions selected from the "regular class work of the children of the Irving School, Minneapolis."

The students of the William Hood Dunwoody Industrial Institute of Minneapolis have begun the publication of a school monthly entitled *The Artisan*. The first number is dated December, 1915.

A series of thirteen articles by Louis L. Collins under the general title "Story of the Wards," which is appearing in the Sunday issues of the *Minneapolis Journal*, forms a rather unique and valuable addition to Minneapolis bibliography. The story of the historical and industrial development peculiar to each ward is related in a succession of episodes, of incidents in the lives of the men and women prominently connected with the ward, and of glimpses into its economic, political, and social life throughout its history. The series began with an article on the

first ward in the issue of January 9, and the other wards are being covered, one each week, in numerical order.

Questions connected with the killing of Chief Little Crow and the present location of his skull received considerable attention from Minnesota papers recently. Any one interested in the subject is referred to articles in the *Litchfield Independent*, September 15 and November 3, the *St. Paul Daily News*, November 7, the *Eden Valley Journal*, November 11, the *Silver Lake Leader*, November 13, the *Minneapolis Journal*, November 14, the *Brown County Journal* of New Ulm, December 18, the *New Ulm Review*, December 22, and the *Minneapolis Tribune*, December 26. The fifty-third anniversary of the execution of the Sioux Indians at Mankato called forth in the *Mankato Review* of December 27 an interview with Thomas Hughes of that city giving an account of the event.

The *Aitkin Independent Age* published in its issues of December 25, 1915, and January 1 and 8, 1916, under the title "Old Timer Tells of Early Days," a manuscript written by Cleveland Stafford, a pioneer of Aitkin, who died December 15, 1915. Stafford's account is full of valuable data concerning the early history of northwestern Minnesota, his descriptions of early travel routes being of especial interest. He was engaged in the fur trade in early territorial days, and collected furs from the Indians of the northern part of the territory, making trips from Fond du Lac to Leech Lake as well as to Crow Wing and down the Mississippi to St. Anthony Falls. Later he hauled freight by team from Superior to Fort Ripley. He lived for a time in Minneapolis and knew many of the men prominent in its early history. In the latter part of the manuscript many incidents connected with the early history of Aitkin and the surrounding northern country are given.

The recent demolition of the first brick building erected in St. Paul—the former residence of Captain Louis Robert—to make room for a modern business structure, furnished the occasion for an interesting article by Captain Robert's daughter, Mrs. Jeanette Lamprey, entitled "Belle of Robert Street Tells about Early Days," which appeared in the *St. Paul Daily News*, November 25, 1915.

John H. McGary of Independence township, Hennepin County, has been contributing to the *Wayzata Reporter* a series of articles of historical value entitled "History in This Vicinity," in which the name and location of some of the early settlers of the western part of the county are given. The first article appeared October 28, 1915.

The *Osseo Review* devoted considerable space in its special edition of December 15, 1915, to "Osseo History in Pictures," an article describing the platting of the village on Pierre Bottineau prairie in 1856, and containing sketches of some of its pioneer citizens. In the same issue Mayor Albert P. Hechtman writes at some length on the "Origin of the word 'Osseo.'"

Under the title "Things You Should Know about the Early History of Martin County" the *Martin County Sentinel* has been publishing from time to time beginning with its issue of October 26, 1915, extracts from William H. Budd's *History of Martin County* (Fairmont, Minnesota, 1897. 124 p.).

A decision has been finally reached in the controversy which has been carried on in the newspapers of Yellow Medicine County for some weeks as to who was the first white child born in the county. It now appears from an article entitled "First White Child Again" in the *Granite Falls Journal*, November 11, 1915, that the honor belongs to Robert B. Riggs, professor of chemistry, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, who was born May 22, 1855, at Hazlewood mission, located south of Granite Falls, founded by his father, Rev. Stephen R. Riggs, one of the early Presbyterian missionaries.

Among other articles containing items of historical interest which have appeared in recent issues of Minnesota newspapers may be noted the following: "Proctor Man Tells Romantic Story of Rainy Lake City" by C. A. Moore, the story of a municipality which sprang up quickly on the discovery of gold in the Rainy Lake district and was as quickly abandoned upon the failure of the mines to produce great wealth, in the *Duluth Herald*, November 13, 1915; "Indian Scare in Pioneer Days" by Harry Kemper of Perham, in the *Battle Lake Review*, November 25, 1915; "Old Indian Tells of Trip over Snow in 1870 with

J. J. Hill" by Joe Perrault of the White Earth Reservation, in the *Minneapolis Tribune*, November 28, 1915; "Experience of One Residing in Benton County for Fifty Years" by Mrs. Mary Skeate, in the *Sauk Rapids Sentinel*, December 9, 1915; "Was Missionary in Early Days of Minnesota" by Rev. Thomas Scotton, in the *Virginia Daily Enterprise*, January 12, 1916; "Recalls Old Days," an interesting letter from George W. Buswell, a former Winona resident, in the *Winona Herald*, January 16, 1916; "Pioneer Tells of Early Days" by W. B. Whitney of Birch Lake, in the *Melrose Beacon*, January 19, 1916; "Christmas in 1868," in which an old settler tells of his first Christmas spent in Stevens County, in the *Morris Sun*, December 23, 1915; "Was Real Pioneer," containing incidents in the life of J. H. Bliler, one of the first school teachers in Stearns County, in the *St. Cloud Journal-Press*, November 22, 1915, reprinted from the *Osakis Review*; the great blizzard of 1873 is recalled in the following articles: "Anniversary of Memorable Minnesota Blizzard of 1873" in the *Wells Mirror*, January 15, 1916; "Early Blizzards are Recalled by W. C. Gamble" in the *Martin County Sentinel*, January 14, 1916; "Lasted for Fifty-two Hours" in the *Albert Lea Tribune*, January 7, 1916.